

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



545214

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

I. HEADING

Date: January 14, 1996
Subject: ~~Carl's Retreading Tire Fire~~, Traverse City, Grand
Traverse County, Michigan
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POLREP No.: ~~POLREP 7~~ (Emergency Response)

II. BACKGROUND

Site No.:	ZZ
Response Authority:	CERCLA
CERCLIS No.:	-
NPL Status:	No
Start Date:	December 30, 1995
Demobilization Date:	N/A
Completion Date:	N/A

III. SITE INFORMATION

- A. Incident Category Tire Fire at Scrap Tire Facility
B. Site Description and Location
1. Site location

The Carl's Retreading Tire Fire (CR) site is an emergency response to a tire fire located south of Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan (44° 39.7'N, 85°40.0'W). The CR site is an approximately 4.5 acre property that consists of a building with loading dock, several semi-trailers, and 500,000 shredded and whole tires staged on 1 acre of the parcel. The tires are in piles that range from 4 feet up to 30 feet in height. The site is currently owned by Steve Hubert.

The site is bordered by residences located on Compton Court to the west, Sawyer Woods Drive to the north, forested land to the south, and light industry and residences to the east. The site is in a rural/residential/ area with some light industry. An elementary school (Blair Elementary) is located across Sawyer Road and approximately 500 feet to the east of the CR site. Residences are located approximately 300 feet to the west of the fire as well as within 500 feet to the south and east of the site. Cox Pond and Beitner Creek are located approximately 1/3 mile north of the site.

IV. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation

1. Current situation

Fire fighting activities at the Carl's Retreading Tire Fire have been ongoing since December 29, 1995. Agencies involved in fire activities and technical support include Grand Traverse Rural and Metro Fire Departments, U.S. EPA, the U.S. EPA's Technical Assistance Team (TAT), U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), Grand Traverse Health Department, Blair Township officials, Grand Traverse County Emergency Management, Michigan Air National Guard, and numerous volunteers from fire departments all over the state. Helicopter overflights of the fire are being provided by U.S.C.G. Air Station Traverse City.

The fire is being fought through mechanical means with fire fighters providing safety support. A set pattern of air monitoring stations have been established and are assessed twice daily. In addition, random readings are collected downwind

of the fire each day to assess the amount and content of smoke leaving the site. Continuous air monitoring occurs daily and is moved to intercept the smoke plume. Throughout the fire activities, readings have indicated levels of particulates below NIOSH standards for carbon black. No elevated readings of organic vapors, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, or other components have been detected.

A crash rescue unit (OSH KOSH) has been provided by Cherry County Airport to test its suitability for use at the fire. When it proved useful, two OSH KOSH units from Phelps-Collins Air National Guard Station were mobilized to the site in order to eliminate the need for excess on-ground fire fighter support. With the arrival of the two OSH KOSH units, a 590 excavator was added to the operation in the lower heat areas allowing dual operations to be run.

School board for Blair Elementary has decided to keep children in alternative locations until January 22, 1996. This will allow the command post to remain in Blair school another week and will protect the children from potential exposure to the smoke.

2. Removal activities to date

January 12, 1996: An ash fallout sample, a Summa canister sample for VOCs from smoke immediately near the fire, and Gillian metals cartridges were collected and shipped for laboratory analysis. A second series of metals cartridges will be collected on January 13, 1996.

The fire is being fought through mechanical means with fire fighters and OSH KOSH units providing safety support. The 590 excavator is being used to work the lower sections of the tire pile, allowing dual operations.

The PRP will not be able to fund the fire operation beyond January 14, 1996. As of January 15, the contractor will fall under U.S. EPA command and funding. An ERCS clerk will be mobilized to site on January 14.

The OSC has arranged for crash rescue units from the Glenview Naval Air Station and the U.S. Army

to standby to respond to the site should the units from Phelps-Collins be recalled.

Congressman Bart Stupack visits site for second time. He holds media briefings and meets with on-site personnel.

January 13: The fire is being fought through mechanical means with fire fighters and OSH KOSH units providing safety support. The 590 excavator is being used to work the lower sections of the tire pile, allowing dual operations.

Gillian pump samples for metals are collected and shipped for analysis. Results for PAHs are received and extremely low levels of several parameters are noted. Data is provided to the County Health Department for assessment.

An accumulation of oil is noted in a catch basin on the northwest side of the burning pile. It appears to be pyrolitic oil and is being consumed by the fire.

B. Planned Removal Activities

1. Continue monitoring of random and stationary air sampling points for particulates, organic vapors, and other potentially fire generated constituents.
2. Northern A-1 will continue to fight the tire fire with the safety support of the fire fighters.
3. Continue to evaluate ongoing potential threat to the surrounding residents and employees of businesses.
4. Conduct media briefings.
5. Mobilize ERCS clerk to site.

C. Next Steps

Continue to operate tire fire fighting activities with safety support of local and visiting fire fighters.

Prepare analytical results for presentation at public meeting scheduled for January 18, 1996, at 1900 hours.

Prepare Action Memorandum

D. Key Issues

Students from the Blair Elementary School continue to be displaced from their building. Students are currently expected to be able to return to the Blair building on January 22, 1996.

Grand Traverse County has assumed financial responsibility for paying the fire fighters. Levels of volunteers must be monitored and maintained to allow operations to continue.

Township continues to stand ready to house any residents who voluntarily choose to vacant their homes during daylight operations. No one has evacuated their homes since January 1, 1996.

V. COST INFORMATION

Estimated costs as of January 13, 1996:

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Remaining</u>
TAT	\$ 50,000	\$ 44,439	\$ 5,561
U.S. EPA	\$ 20,000	\$ 19,148	\$ 852
USCG AST	\$ 30,000	\$ 16,104	\$ 13,896
TOTAL:	\$ 100,000	\$ 79,691	\$ 20,309